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Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 00112 301354Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IOE-00 AF-10 HA-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
/077 W
----------088527 301401Z /46
O 301310Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC 7888

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 0112

FOR AMB BOWDLER FROM AMB YOUNG

EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

STATE FOR IO/UNA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SF
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS SUBMITTED
TO BEN POGRUND, RAND DAILY MAIL

REF: USUN 0149, CAPE TOWN 00118,

1. I APPRECIATE AND GENERALLY AGREE WITH YOUR RESERVATIONS
ON THE ANSWER TO THE FIRST QUESTION. HOWEVER, I WOULD
STILL LIKE TO CALL ATTENTION TO THE LOW TURN-OUT IN THE
FACE OF THE ALL-OUT EFFORT THAT WEAS MADE TO SECURE A
VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. I SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING REVISION
OF YOUR ALTERNATE LANGUAGE:

BEGIN QUOTE: MY REACTION TO THE S.A. GENERAL ELECTIONS
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IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT FROM MOST ANALYSTS. I ADMIT THAT
I AM CONTINUALLY LOOKING FOR SIGNS OF HOPE, EVEN IN
THE MOST DIFFICULT OF SITUATIONS. I SIMPLY DON'T VIEW
THE ELECTION AS THE GREAT VICTORY THAT BROUGHT EVERYONE
INTO THE "LAAGER" AS OTHERS APPARENTLY HAVE.

THE SAG WENT TO GREAT LENGTHS TO GET A POPULAR

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MANDATE FROM THE WHITE MINORITY OF S.A. IT WAS NOT THAT
THE GOVERNMENT NEEDED MORE SEATS, THE EXPRESSED NEED WAS
A REAFFIRMATION OF POPULAR SUPPORT.

FIRST, I UNDERSTAND THAT 689,000 VOTERS VOTED FOR
THE NATIONALIST PARTY. THAT MEANS THAT ALMOST A MILLION
REGISTERED WHITE VOTERS DID NOT RESPOND TO THE CALL FOR
SUPPORT. THAT FACT DESERVES MENTIONING BECAUSE SOMETIMES
IN THE MOST UNTENABLE SITUATIONS APATHY OR SIMPLY DOING
NOTHING MEANS SOMETHING. SUCH DOES NOT LEAD ME TO CONCLUDE
THAT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF WHITE VOTERS ARE
ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND DIRECTION. SECONDLY,
MANY WHITE VOTERS APPARENTLY SUPPORTED THE NATIONAL
PARTY NOT OUT OF ANY IDEOLOGICAL COMMITMENT, BUT AS A
RESULT OF THE SIEGE PSYCHOLOGY THAT HAD BEEN GENERATED IN
THE COUNTRY.

IN ANY EVENT, THE ELECTIONS DO NOT CHANGE THE FACT
THAT THERE IS A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF ROOM FOR CREATIVE
LEADERSHIP EMERGING IN SOUTH AFRICA.

I YET BELIEVE THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF WHITE PEOPLE IN
S.A. ARE LOOKING FOR A RELEVANT AND REALISTIC APPROACH TO
THE PROBLEM OF WHO ASIANS, BLACKS, COLOREDS AND
WHITES MIGHT LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE AND PROSPERITY.

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MY HOPE IS THAT OUT OF THIS PRESENT CONFUSION, A
GENUINE LEADERSHIP WILL EMERGE TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS
OF ALL SOUTH AFRICANS. END QUOTE.

2. AMB BOWDLER PLEASE EVALUATE THIS APPROACH. IF YOU
STILL SEE SERIOUS PROBLEMS, I WILL RELUCTANTLY DEFER TO
YOUR BETTER JUDGMENT. LAINGEN

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